

Specification

1. Please delete the following paragraphs on page 4. lines 6-10, of the instant specification.

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~~DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS~~

~~FIG. 1A is a view of self-sampling tool with the specimen collection element outside the shield.~~

~~FIG. 1B is a view of self-sampling tool with the specimen collection element inside the shield.~~

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2. Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 14-21, with the following paragraph:

-- ~~As shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B, the~~ The device comprises a brush attached to an inner tube, and an outer tube that serves as shield to the brush and the inner tube. The brush includes a longitudinal axis that runs through the inner tube and bristles that extend laterally outward from the longitudinal axis. The brush and the inner tube as a whole are called the collection element. The inner and outer tubes are preferably cylindrical in shape, and are approximately equal length. The collection element can be removed from the shield for sample analysis. Alternatively, the bristles can have short axis that is mounted to the base of the inner tube, and the bristles can be removed from the base of inner tube. --

3. Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 15-20, with the following paragraph:

-- The invention also features a device for collecting a sample, wherein the device comprises a brush attached to an end of a support. The brush includes a longitudinal axis, and bristles extending laterally outward from the longitudinal axis. In one embodiment, the device also can include a tubular shield into which the brush can be withdrawn. The shield can be of a length equal to the brush, or it can be longer, or it can be shorter. ~~In a preferred embodiment, the device is substantially as shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B.~~ --